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Security Council

Distr.: General
31 July 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 31 July 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I would like to call for an urgent session of the Security Council on Monday, 31 July 2006, to discuss the latest Israeli massacre in Qana, southern Lebanon, and the continuous escalation.

I also have the honour to request that the delegation of Lebanon be allowed to participate in the meeting without the right to vote, in accordance with rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, in the Council's discussion of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East".

Mr. Tarek Mitri, Minister of Culture, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, will address the Council on that date.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

06-45090 (E) 310706

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Letter dated 26 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on recent developments in Georgia-Abkhazia and South Ossetia issued on 24 July 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kirsti **Lintonen**
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

06-45159 (E) 020806

Annex to the letter dated 26 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on recent developments in Georgia-Abkhazia and South Ossetia — issued on 24 July 2006 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union refers to recent developments in the South Ossetian zone of conflict in Georgia and to the resolution of the Georgian Parliament on peacekeeping forces stationed in the conflict zones, which was adopted on 18 July 2006.

Further to the statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on recent developments in Georgia — South Ossetia of 21 February, the European Union reiterates its support for a peaceful resolution of the territorial conflicts in Georgia, based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. The European Union welcomes the initiatives taken to this effect, as reflected in the decisions of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Ljubljana in December 2005, and stands ready to contribute actively to the peace processes.

The European Union is satisfied with the outcome of the OSCE-sponsored donors' conference on South Ossetia, held on 14 June in Brussels. It hopes that the programmes of economic rehabilitation agreed there will strengthen mutual confidence between the parties. It also welcomes plans to send a United Nations fact-finding mission regarding the possible deployment of an international police force to Abkhazia as soon as possible.

The European Union is deeply concerned about continuing tension between Georgia and the Russian Federation and recent incidents in South Ossetia, which do not contribute to stability and freedom of movement. The European Union is particularly worried by the recent closure of the only recognized border crossing between Georgia and the Russian Federation. The European Union emphasizes the importance of ensuring freedom of movement of goods and people, in particular by keeping the border crossing at Zemo Larsi open.

The Union condemns violence in all its forms. It also reminds the parties that detentions, violence and threatening of OSCE observers, diplomatic personnel and others performing agreed functions related to the peacekeeping operations and conflict resolution efforts are unacceptable.

The European Union urges the parties to make full use of the existing negotiating mechanisms and to do their utmost to promote stability and peaceful development in the region. In this connection, the European Union regrets the cancellation of the meeting of the Joint Control Commission on South Ossetia, scheduled for 17 and 18 July.

While emphasizing the need to increase the effectiveness of negotiating and peacekeeping in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, the European Union invites all parties

to start dialogue on the basis of the existing mechanisms, in order to explore the possibilities for improvement.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the stabilization and association process.